

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 8, 2004. With this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-16 and 42 are canceled, claims 4, 17, and 37 are amended, and claims 43-61 are added. Claims 4, 17, 37-41 and 43-61 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 4 and 17 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, rejected claims 37-41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), and rejected claims 1-3, 5-16 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103. The Examiner indicated that claims 4 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

With this Amendment, claim 4 has been rewritten to include all limitations of rejected base claim 1 and intervening claims 2 and 3, and claim 17 has been rewritten to include all limitations of rejected base claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 4 and 17 are in condition for allowance.

Method claim 37 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of apparatus claim 4. Specifically, claim 37 now recites the step of providing a filament cassette having a roller for advancing a filament strand along the filament path, wherein the follower roller has a floating axis of rotation allowing the follower roller to move away from the filament path in the absence of an external applied force. Claim 37 as amended also includes the limitation of canceled dependent claim 42. Claim 37, and its dependent claims 38-41, are thus allowable for the same reasons as amended claim 4.

New claims 43 and 48 are akin to amended claim 4, except that certain recitations, which the Examiner did not recite as a reason for the indication of allowable subject matter (*see* 1/8/04 Office Action at pp. 4-5, ¶ 8), are omitted. Namely, claims 43 and 48 do not include a recitation that the chamber is dried and do not recite a means for preventing air flow to the chamber,

and claim 48 does not recite a passive roller. Applicant points out that the means for preventing air flow is recited in new dependent claims 44 and 49, while limitations of canceled dependent claims 10, 13 and 15, respectively, are the subject matter of new dependent claims 45-47 and 50-52. Applicant submits that claims 43 and 48, and their respective dependent claims 44-47 and 49-52, are allowable for the same reasons given by the Examiner supporting allowability of the subject matter of claim 4, and they present no new issues of patentability.

New claim 53 is akin to amended claim 17, except that certain recitations, which the Examiner did not recite as a reason for the indication of allowable subject matter (*see* 1/8/04 Office Action at p. 5, ¶ 8), are omitted. Namely, claim 53 does not include a recitation that the chamber is dried and does not recite a means for preventing air flow to the chamber. The means for preventing air flow are instead recited in new dependent claims 54 and 55. Applicant submits that claim 53, and its dependent claims 54 and 55, are allowable for the same reasons given by the Examiner supporting allowability of the subject matter of claim 17, and they present no new issues of patentability.

New claims 56-61 are method claims, similar to claims 37-42, which include the allowable subject matter of apparatus claim 17. Specifically, claim 56 recites the step of providing a filament cassette having a means for mating with a modeling machine so as to align the exit orifice with a filament conduit of the modeling machine. Claims 57-61 depend from claim 56. Claim 56, and its dependent claims 57-61, are thus allowable for the same reasons as amended claim 17.

Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment complies with the requirements of form set forth in the final office action, and places the application in condition for allowance. Entry of this Amendment and acknowledgement of allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

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Application No.: 09/804,401

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Applicant notes that its cancellation of rejected claims is made without prejudice to its right to pursue the subject matter of said claims in a continuation application.

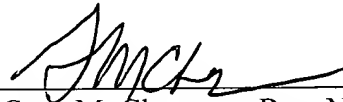
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 3/4/04

By



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